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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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TO: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley
Auditor-Controller

**SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION SUMMER FOOD
SERVICE PROGRAM**

As requested by the Chief Administrative Office, we have completed a review of the Department of Parks and Recreation's (DPR) Summer Food Service Program (Program). Our review was intended to determine whether the Program was operated in compliance with State requirements, and included an evaluation of DPR's training for Program staff, eighteen visits to Program sites, reviews of monitoring reports prepared by DPR staff and discussions with State Program monitors.

Findings

We found that DPR was complying with State Summer Food Service Program requirements in all material respects. We found no instances of questionable claiming practices that State monitors had cited in previous reviews. We did note some minor issues that were discussed with DPR management who agreed to take corrective action. Our discussions with State Program monitors indicated that, based on their reviews, they have concluded that DPR was complying with State requirements.

Background

The Summer Food Service Program is a federally subsidized program administered by the State Department of Education. The Program provides funds for lunches to children in low-income areas to ensure they receive nutritious meals during the summer. For Summer 2001, DPR operated the Program from July 5th through August 31st, at 44 sites throughout the County and served approximately 105,000 meals at a cost of approximately \$650,000.

In prior years, the State had noted serious deficiencies in DPR's operation of the Program. For example, the State noted that some Program locations always ordered the same number of meals each day ("block claiming") and reported no leftover meals, even when State monitors found leftovers. The State advised the County that continued violations could result in the loss of Program funding.

In response to the State's concerns, DPR developed a corrective action plan to increase staff training and management oversight. For example, DPR increased the number of Program monitors from eight to fifteen and required DPR managers to make periodic site visits to ensure compliance with Program rules and regulations. In previous years, managers were not required to visit Program sites.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or have your staff contact DeWitt Roberts at (213) 974-0301.

JTM:DR:JS

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Michael H. Smith, Interim Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Public Information Office
Audit Committee